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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/567,287

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Masanori Itoh

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EXAMINER

ZHAO, DAQUAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/567,287	Applicant(s) ITOH ET AL.	
	Examiner DAQUAN ZHAO	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/3/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashley et al (US 6,584,273 B1).

For claim 1, Ashley et al teach a data processor comprising: a writing section for arranging a plurality of moving picture streams (e.g. figure 6, column 2, lines 45-46, MPEG video picture streams), each including video and audio to play back synchronously with each other (e.g. column 4, lines 43-57 and figure 5, the video and audio must playback synchronously with each other), and writing the streams as at least one data file on a storage medium (e.g. figure 5 shows File A, File B); and a writing control section for locating a mute interval between two moving picture streams that are going to be played back continuously, wherein the writing control section provides additional audio data representing audio to be reproduced in the mute interval located (e.g. column 6, lines 37-52, column 11, lines 26-34 and claims 4 and 11 of Ashley et al), and wherein the writing section stores the provided additional audio data on the storage medium such that the additional audio data is associated with the data file (e.g. column 6, lines 37-52, column 11, lines 26-34 and claims 4 and 11 of Ashley et al).

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Claim 13 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 1 above.

For claims 2-3 and 14-15, Ashley et al teach the writing control section further uses audio data, which is stored in a predetermined terminal range of one of the two continuously played moving picture streams that is going to be played earlier than the other, and provides the additional audio data including the same audio as that stored in the predetermined terminal range (e.g. column 6, lines 37-52, column 11, lines 26-34 and claims 4 and 11 of Ashley et al teach using the overlapping audio to fill the audio gap, the overlap audio must be from the streams in figure 5, file A and File B are considered to the claimed terminal range, one of the file A or File B must be playback before the other).

For claims 5, 8, 17 and 20, Ashley et al teach the writing section writes the arranged moving picture streams as a single data file on the storage medium (e.g. column 4, lines 31-57, The PBS program).

For claims 6 and 18, Ashley et al teach the writing section writes the arranged moving picture streams as multiple data files on the storage medium (e.g figure 5, file A and File B).

For claims 7 and 19, Ashley et al teach the writing section writes the provided additional audio data just before where one of the two continuously played moving picture stream data files, which is going to be played later than the other, is stored, thereby associating the additional audio data with the data file (e.g. column 4, line 58-column 5, line 4 and figure 5).

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For claim 9, Ashley et al teach the mute interval is shorter than the time length of a single audio decoding unit (e.g. column 11, lines 26-33, up to about 1 audio frame can mean the audio gap can be less than 1 audio frame).

For claim 10, Ashley et al teach a video stream in each said moving picture stream is an MPEG-2 video stream, and wherein the same MPEG-2 video stream buffer conditions are to be satisfied by the two continuously played moving picture streams (e.g. column 9, lines 19-25).

For claim 12, Ashley et al teach the writing section writes the moving picture streams in a physically continuous data area on the storage medium on the basis of either a predetermined playback duration or a predetermined data size, and also writes the additional audio data just before the continuous data area (e.g. this feature is a inherent feature of the disc recorder of figure 1, wherein the recording area of the disc has to be continuous data area, and is divided into sectors of 2Kb).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashley et al (US 6,584,273 B1) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, and 17-20 above, and further in view of Robinson (US 5,476,097).

See the teaching of Ashley et al.

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For claims 4 and 16, Ashley et al fail to teach provided additional audio data just before where the mute interval. Robinson teaches provided additional audio data just before where the mute interval (e.g. column 4, lines 22-42, "The signal sample which precedes the last signal sample before the gap is used as the second gapfilling sample). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Robinson into the teaching of Ashley et al to improve the reliability and quality of the digital stream when the stream is reproduced.

5. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashley et al (US 6,584,273 B1) as applied to claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, and 17-20 above, and further in view of Tahara et al (US 6,980,731 B1).

For claim 11, Ashley et al fail to teach controlling an audio level before and after the mute interval. Tahara et al teach controlling an audio level before and after the mute interval (e.g. column 18, lines 47-57). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Tahara et al into the teaching of Ashley et al to improve the reliability and quality of the digital stream when the stream is reproduced.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okada et al (US 6,549,722 B2).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daquan Zhao whose telephone number is (571) 270-1119. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Fri. 7:30 -5, alt Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Thai Q, can be reached on (571)272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daquan Zhao/

Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/JAMIE JO VENT ATALA/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621